

ROUTER

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/927,448, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,725,842
5 filed August 11, 2001, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/224,852 filed August 11, 2000.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

10 The invention relates to hand-held power tools and, more particularly, to routers.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 A router generally includes a base for supporting the router on a workpiece surface, a housing supported by the base and movable relative to the base, and a motor supported by the housing and operable to drive a tool element. In a fixed-base router, the housing is fixed or locked in a position relative to the base once the depth of cut of the tool element is set. In a plunge router, the housing is movable relative to the housing to the desired depth of cut so that the tool element "plunges" into the workpiece.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

20 Typically, existing routers include one or more hand grips spaced apart on opposite sides of the housing or the base to control movement of the router on the workpiece. Many operators, however, grip a router by the housing or the base. A typical router is manufactured from hard plastic or metal, which provide minimal friction and lack of comfort to the operator.

25 The apparatus and method of the present invention alleviates, in aspects of the invention, one or more problems relating to, among other things, gripping of the router, depth adjustment, clamping of the housing relative to the base, operation of the router in an inverted position and storage of the router.

30 In some aspects, the invention provides a hand grip connected to the housing. In some aspects, the invention provides a router operable above a workpiece and